CLAIM LISTING

Claims 1-15 (cancelled)

Claim 16 (new): A T-post extender comprising:

an elongated longitudinal element having a longitudinal axis and an exterior surface that is substantially a cylinder, the longitudinal axis being defined as the mathematical least squares straight line fit to the centroids of all cross sections of the longitudinal element, the longitudinal element having maximum extent in any direction perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of about 1/2 inch, the longitudinal element being able to withstand bending moments in any direction perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of at least 200 pound-inch;

a single stop element surrounding the longitudinal element, the stop element in a selected position along the longitudinal element, the selected position being relative to a first end of the longitudinal element, the stop element having maximum extent in the longitudinal axial direction of less than about 2 inch, and, when the stop element and longitudinal axis are projected onto any plane having a normal perpendicular to the longitudinal axis, the stop element at substantially its end in the longitudinal direction nearest the first end of the longitudinal element has a projected profile that extends at least 1/2 inch in each of the two radially opposed directions measured from the projected longitudinal axis; and

an attachment means for fixing the stop element to the longitudinal element at the selected position.

Claim 17 (new): The T-post extender of claim 16 wherein the longitudinal element is a length of steel rebar, the stop element is a steel flat washer, and the attachment means for fixing the stop element to the longitudinal element at the selected position is by welding the flat washer to the rebar.

Claim 18 (new): The T-post extender of claim 17 wherein the rebar is 1/2 inch diameter, and the steel flat washer has an interior diameter of about 1/2 inch that is sufficient for the steel flat washer to slide over the rebar into position for attachment by welding.

Claim 19 (new): A high fence support comprising the T-post extender of claim 16 in combination with a steel T-post having an upper end and having cross sections substantially in the shape of a T, the T having a stem and an over-bar, one end of the stem of the T meeting the over-bar of the T at its center and at substantially right angles, the steel T-post having one or more wire ties each on the T-post at substantially a cross section of the T-post near its upper end, each wire tie either completely surrounding the T-post or in combination with a fence wire completely surrounding the T-post, the interstitial space between the T-post and each wire tie formed by the stem of the T, the over-bar of the T, and the wire tie being sufficient to accept the first end of the T-post extender longitudinal element, the T-post extender inserted from the top of the T-post into interstitial spaces formed by the T-post and wire ties, coming to a stop when the stop element rests against the top of the T-post with the wire ties laterally restraining the T-post extender adjacent the T-post.

Claim 20 (new): A high fence support comprising:

a T-post extender comprising an elongated longitudinal element having a longitudinal axis and an exterior surface that is substantially a cylinder, the longitudinal axis being defined as the mathematical least squares straight line fit to the centroids of all cross sections of the longitudinal element, the longitudinal element having maximum extent in any direction perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of about 1/2 inch, the longitudinal element being able to withstand bending moments in any direction perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of at least 200 pound-inch, the T-post extender comprising also a single stop element surrounding the longitudinal element, the stop element in a selected position along the longitudinal element, the selected position being relative to a first end of the longitudinal element, the

stop element having maximum extent in the longitudinal axial direction of less than about 2 inch, and, when the stop element and longitudinal axis are projected onto any plane having a normal perpendicular to the longitudinal axis, the stop element at substantially its end in the longitudinal direction nearest the first end of the longitudinal element has a projected profile that extends at least 1/2 inch in each of the two radially opposed directions measured from the projected longitudinal axis, the T-post extender stop element having an attachment means for fixing the stop element to the longitudinal element at the selected position; and

a steel T-post with one or more wire ties, the steel T-post having an upper end and having cross sections substantially in the shape of a T, the T having a stem and an over-bar, one end of the stem of the T meeting the over-bar of the T at its center and at substantially right angles, the steel T-post having one or more wire ties each on the T-post at substantially a cross section of the T-post near its upper end, each wire tie either completely surrounding the T-post or in combination with existing fence wire completely surrounding the T-post, the interstitial space between the T-post and each wire tie formed by the stem of the T, the over-bar of the T, and the wire tie being sufficient to accept the first end of the T-post extender longitudinal element; whereby

during the process of constructing a fence or adding height to an existing fence, the T-post extender can be installed onto a T-post by slipping it into the interstitial spaces between the T-post and wire ties, the T-post extender being held laterally by the wire ties and T-post in position alongside the upper part of the T-post and vertically by gravity which causes the stop element of the T-post extender to rest on top of the T-post.